

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of November 8, 2006 in which claims 1-8 and 12-16 were rejected. A petition for a three-month extension of time is enclosed herewith along with the requisite fee. If the fee is insufficient or the petition is missing or is the wrong kind of petition, the Commissioner is authorized to consider this a petition for the appropriate extension of time and to deduct any shortfall from our Deposit Account No. 23-0442. Likewise, it is not believed that there is any claims fee due beyond the RCE fee submitted herewith, however, if this is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the correct claims fee from our Deposit Account 23-0442.

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 have been cancelled and a new set of claims 21-34 have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. New independent claims 21 and 31 are directed to a method and a device, respectively, for measuring a water content in a multiphase oil/water/gas-mixture which flows an operation through a pipe.

Regarding the claim objections, these are moot due to the cancellation of the objected-to claims and the substitution of new claims. Withdrawal of the objection is requested. Similarly, with respect to the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-8, these claims have been cancelled and new claims substituted therefor. Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is requested.

Regarding the novelty rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-6 and 12, these have been cancelled and the rejection thereof is moot. New claims have been substituted with limitations that are distinguishable over the prior art. The new independent claims include an additional limitation that the losses in the coils are measured by alternating from one coil to the other. Such alternation is not done in related implementations described in the prior art. As claimed, the invention permits

measuring losses for one coil at a time to provide the possibility of making a more accurate measurement and moreover one that is easier for practical implementation.

The claimed limitations make it possible to make the measurement more accurate at relatively lower interrogation frequencies, for instance in a range of 2-8 MHz as claimed for instance in claim 28. This frequency range is considerably simpler to employ than earlier known implementations which use interrogation frequencies approaching 1 GHz which are considerably more complex to process and potentially give rise to less stable measurements.

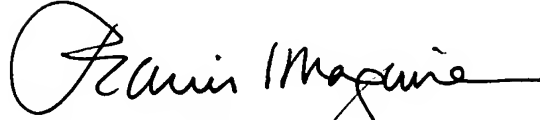
Amended device claims 31 is a combination of several earlier claims where the coils are operated at resonance and are spatially positioned around the pipe in a specific advantageous manner. Such a configuration and corresponding operating manner as presently claimed is not known from prior art, especially when such a configuration allows the use of a resonant frequency as mentioned above with relatively lower interrogation frequencies.

It should be mentioned that the Patent Office of Norway in considering amendments similar to those made above considered the claims set to satisfy conditions for grant and applicant is anticipating that the USPTO will take a similar positive attitude so that the amended patent application associated with this RCE can proceed forthwith to grant.

Therefore, reconsideration is requested and withdrawal of the novelty and obviousness rejections previously made is earnestly requested.

The objections and rejections of the Office Action of November 8, 2006, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of claims 21-34 to issue is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis J. Maguire". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Francis J. Maguire
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 31,391

FJM/lk
WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
755 Main Street, PO Box 224
Monroe CT 06468
(203) 261-1234